

NATIONAL Jewish Post and Opinion

"If You Let The People Know, They Can Act Intelligently"

Friday, December 11, 1959

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A Knitting Paratrooper

Probably one of the few paratroopers in the world who enjoys knitting during off-duty hours is Esther Bar-On, who is a corporal in the Israel Army paratroop corps. She is engaged to another paratrooper, Amos Shapiro, Israel's free-jumping champion.

United Synagogue Threatens To Withdraw Membership From Presidents Conference

By GERSHON JACOBSON

NEW YORK (P-O) — United Synagogue of America threatened to withdraw from the Presidents Conference, if it transforms itself from an ad hoc group to a permanent type organization.

Benaft L. Jacobs, president of United Synagogue, said in a letter to Philip Klutznick, chairman of the Presidents Conference, "I shall not be able to continue my affiliation with the Conference, if and when it ceases to be an ad hoc group as originally set-up."



Klutznick

UNITED SYNAGOGUE, the lay wing of the Conservative movement, bases its opposition to the Presidents Conference on four points: (1) The Conference is dominated by the Jewish Agency and Zionist groups. (2) More can be accomplished on behalf of Israel by a truly representative co-ordinating body, which is independent of political influence. (3) The constituency of the Presidents Conference is unduly re-

stricted and does not fully represent the American Jewish community. (4) The manner in which the Conference conducts its activities impairs the organizational serenity of its members.

JACOBS charged that Klutznick ignored an agreement that the special committee should study the various proposals concerning the future of the Presidents Conference. But instead, Jacobs said, steps are being taken to change the Conference's status quo into a permanent body. "I am referring specifically to your plans to approve a budget and to appoint a professional staff at the Presidents Conference meeting, Dec. 9," Jacobs declared. The United Synagogue prexy further said, "In my opinion this amounts to prejudging the basic question before us. It is a serious mistake."

A heated all-day debate nine days ago, tried to discern whether the Presidents Conference should remain a status quo ad hoc group or become a full functioning organization of all major Jewish groups.

THE PRESIDENTS Conference appointed a committee to study all proposals and report back with its findings. However, the opposition groups within the Conference claim that Klutznick is fully determined to transform the Presidents Conference into a permanent body, even before the committee reports back.

Klutznick issued a statement stating that the Presidents Con-

ference is now "fully regularized." The Union of Orthodox Jewish Organizations issued a counter-statement expressing strong opposition to any "regularization" of the Conference.

Moses I. Feurstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, stated, "The Jewish Agency originated and sponsored the Presidents Conference. It still plans to pay 50 per cent of the budget. While it is proper for the Presidents Conference to confere with the Jewish Agency concerning a crisis in Israel it



is quite a different manner for Jewish organizations to identify themselves in an organization that must deal with the U. S. Government."

FEURSTEIN

Eisendrath said, "Supporting Nahum Goldman in these efforts to regularize the Presidents Conference are Phillip Klutznick and Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath. When Goldman enlisted the support of B'nai B'rith and the Reform movement for the Jewish Agency, he revealed again his political genius at achieving from his point of view a brilliant success. But it may ultimately not contribute to the best interests of the American Jewish community."

Klutznick declined to give any comment on either matter.

U.S. Study Into Tax-Exempt Status Of UJA May Force 2 Jewish Agencies

NEW YORK (P-O)—The Jewish Agency for Israel may be forced to splinter into two organizations in order to disconnect their philanthropic work from other activities.

Dr. Nahum Goldman, chairman of the Jewish Agency, said at the meeting last week of the Presidents Conference that he is withdrawing his proposal that the Conference should become an advisory council to the Jewish Agency.

Goldmann disclosed that the Agency may have to establish a new "American Jewish Agen-

cy" separate from the existing "Jewish Agency for Israel."

He said this may be necessary because of a U. S. Government investigation of the tax exempt status of United Jewish Appeal

funds. The Jewish Agency is the beneficiary of UJA contributions. The investigation has been going on for a couple of months.

Because of the bitter wrangle over the future structure of the Presidents Conference, the delegates didn't pay much attention to Goldman's statement.

The withdrawal of the proposed plan that the Presidents Conference should become an advisory body to the Jewish Agency was unanimously hailed.

Now All The Customers Are Happy

TEL AVIV (P-O) — The sensitive problem of discrimination towards the North African "orientals" has been very diplomatically solved by one Tel Aviv restaurant owner.

Asked by one of his Moroccan customers why his menu had no "oriental" dish, the owner thought about it and then inaugurated this menu:

Russian borscht, Czech dumplings, Spanish omelet, North African salad, Polish fish.

Asked for a description of North African salad and Spanish omelet the man explained: "I could not very well offer Spanish borscht or North African gefillte fish, but this way everybody happy."

Jaffa Will Be New Montmartre

TEL AVIV (P-O)—Tel Aviv has often been called the Paris of the Middle East. Now this "Paris" also plans to have its Montmartre. The Tel Aviv Municipality, the Government Tourist Corporation and private investors will combine efforts to turn Jaffa into the Israeli Montmartre.

The streets of old Jaffa will be illuminated by gas lights and restaurants featuring foods of different countries will be opened.

Refrigerator, Furniture, Car Sales Booming In Israel

TEL AVIV (P-O) — Israel's shop windows reflect the relative

prosperity in Israel, the Jewish Middle East Review and Observer reports.

National income is way up over 1957 levels. Consumption has sharply risen, and there has been a sensational demand for durable products like refrigerators and cars.

During the last three years some 100,000 families, nearly a quarter of Israel's population, have bought Israeli-made electric refrigerators.

Furniture and household goods sales are booming, and the use of gas for cooking in private homes has increased by 85 per cent in the last two years.

Another indicator of the general prosperity in Israel, the Jewish Middle East Review and Observer notes, is the fact that the number of Israeli tourists in Europe and America has increased by two-thirds.

Max Baer Wore Star of David But Was Christian

NEW YORK (P-O) — Former heavyweight champ, Max Baer, who died recently always fought with a Star of David on his boxing trunks. His grandfather on his father's side was Jewish. Max was Christian; his wife was Catholic and his family was raised in the Catholic faith. He wore the Jewish star, Ring magazine publisher Nat Fleischer said, because in the thirties it was commercially wise for a fighter to attach to a particular group. Jack Dempsey, Fleischer said (and it was substantiated by Dempsey himself), was just as Jewish as Baer because he also had a Jewish grandfather.

Weinstein Named Group's Prexy

CHICAGO (P-O) — Former POST and OPINION columnist, Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein of Chicago, was named president of the National Committee for Labor Israel.

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Hebrew High Schools Curriculum Create Seminary 'Prep Schools'

By DAVID WACHSTOCK

NEW YORK (P-O) — The Hebrew high schools have created a kind of prep school for curriculum and program of rabbinical and teacher seminar-

ies, Dr. Azriel Eisenberg, executive vice-president of the Jewish Education Committee here, charged.

He said Hebrew high school's content have been designed for a "select few." In a sense, he said, "We have been recruiting our future rabbis and teachers at the ridiculous age of 13."

Eisenberg called for the revision of curriculum "if we are to disabuse ourselves of this mistaken belief."

HE DECLARED that too often Hebrew education is subordinated to the illusory interests of congregations. He said: "Synagogues have been known to embark on risky independent ventures—launching their own Hebrew high schools—because of a desire to segregate their children from those of other congregations or communal Talmud Torahs."

"Certainly in Jewish education, where every child is precious, we dare not countenance empty and willful congregational self-indulgence. We must reach high standards. We must have the adequate financing, the competent planning, the qualified teachers which we can get only from united efforts and shared community responsibility," he declared.

EISENBERG made these statements in a pamphlet circulated at the Conference of Jewish School Board Chairmen sponsored by the Jewish Education Committee of New York.

The increased attendance at Reform religious schools this year in New York is most encouraging, Harry K. Gutman, chairman of religious education of the federations of Reform synagogues here, said.

Speaking before the conference Gutman stated that one of the weaknesses of reform Judaism was that "it has been unable to reproduce itself." He said many Reform synagogues had to hire teachers trained by Orthodox and Conservative seminaries. They just have been unable to find enough Reform-trained teachers.

IT WAS DULY noted that Jewish education in New York is increasing. Pre-school enrollment increased 28 per cent. High school enrollment grew 11 per cent. Weekday and all-day school enrollment increased 12 per cent and 6 per cent respectively in the suburbs.

On the bearish side, however, it was noted that a distressingly low number of Jewish youth enrolled in public high school here are supplementing their high school education with additional Jewish studies.

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5 P.M. Shadow Splits Suburban Social Life

BOSTON (P-O)—Jews seldom have real social contact with their fellow Christian suburbanites. Rabbi Albert I. Gordon of Newton, Mass. says in his new book "Jews in Suburbia."

"It is a kind of '9 to 5' arrangement. The ghetto gates, real or imagined, close at 5 p.m. 'Five o'clock shadow' sets in at sundown. Jews and Christians do not meet socially even in suburbia.

"If we do, you bet that it is to help promote some cause or organization where they think we may be helpful. But after five o'clock there is no social contact, no parties, no home visits, no golf clubs—no nothing."

Rabbi Gordon points out this is the most representative comment made by Jews and is generally confirmed by Jews in suburban communities all through America.

Rabbi Gordon cites a problem

that apparently is fairly typical in many suburbs. He points to the case of the League of Women Voters in Newton.

"This was, not so many years ago, one of the most popular general organizations in the community. The officers and directors of the League were Christian women.

"Then Jewish women were invited to join and their number kept on increasing. Now you would expect this would be one organization where civic-minded Jewish and Christian women would work side by side but that is not the case.

"One-half of the members are Jewish and five of the six officers are Jewish. Twenty Jewesses out of 23 persons served on the organization's committee. Ten out of 14 village chairmen are Jewish.

"What has happened to the

non-Jewish women? They have simply pulled out of the League. They have left it flat. It is no longer the organization to which to belong."

In carefully examining Jewish-non-Jewish relations in the suburbs, the decision was that Jewry seldom comes to know Christians any better in suburbia than in the big city.

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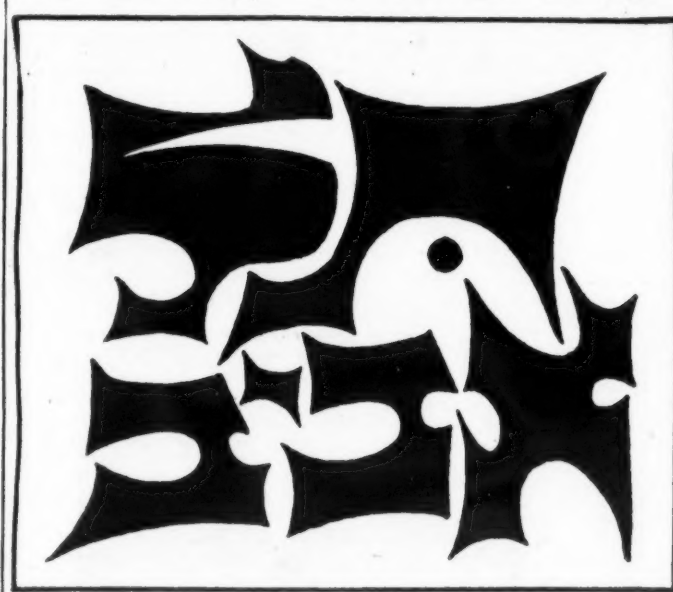
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Israel Won't Ask Nehru To Mediate

TEL AVIV (P-O) — Since Israel favors the maintenance of the status quo in the Middle East, she won't ask India's Nehru to mediate the Arab-Israeli dispute, Premier Ben-Gurion said.

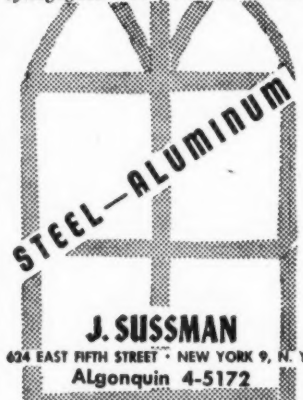
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MANAGEMENT NOTES

TRENDS IN BUDGETING AND FINANCING

By Z'EV KRONISH

It costs \$150 per family annually to operate the average synagogue and \$100 per child to maintain the congregational school.

In most congregations dues

constitute 60 to 80 per cent of the operating budget. Annual assessments on a sliding scale (ability to pay) is gaining ground.

These and other trends in synagogue financing came to light at the recent United Synagogue (Conservative) convention.

THE MOST important innovation in recent years is reliance on one all-inclusive annual assessment from each member to provide the operating capital.

Synagogues found, however, that income based entirely on dues leaves an activity vacuum. When first introduced, the all-inclusive dues covered 100 per cent of the budget. The conclusion was soon reached that complete elimination of fund-raising "left members with nothing to do." So the 100 per cent goal was reduced.

But the principle of covering the major portion of the budget at the outset of the year through dues remains intact. Gone is the old method of appealing for funds in January to pay bills in February.

School tuition makes up 50 to 75 per cent of the congregational school budget.

NONE OF THE new Conservative synagogues charge for Tora honors and the established con-

gregations are steadily abandoning the practice.

It's considered good policy for auxiliary groups like the men's club and the sisterhood to undertake fund-raising affairs as dances and theatre parties. This leaves officers of the congregation free to deal with more important matters.

Should amortization and interest expenses be included in the operating budget? Yes, was the answer; it's an obligation (like telephone and electric bills) that must be met. There's no point to formulating a budget if all the anticipated expenses aren't included, a consultant observed.

AN ALBANY, N. Y., synagogue estimates it saved \$30,000 by organizing a vigilant purchasing committee. Competitive bids were actively sought and screened.

It is now common practice with many congregations to ask new members to pledge \$500 over three years (in addition to dues) as their contribution to the cost of buildings put up five or 10 years ago.

(Copies of this article for distribution to officers are available.)

Pakistan Bars Israeli Cops

TEL AVIV (P-O) — Israel police intervention caused the next Interpol conference to be moved from Pakistan to Paris. Interpol is the international police organization. The convention was scheduled to be held in Lahore, but Pakistan refused to invite the Israel police.

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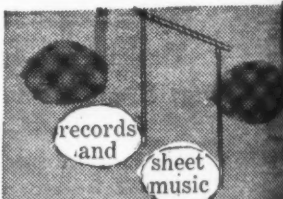
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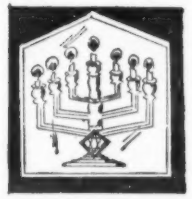
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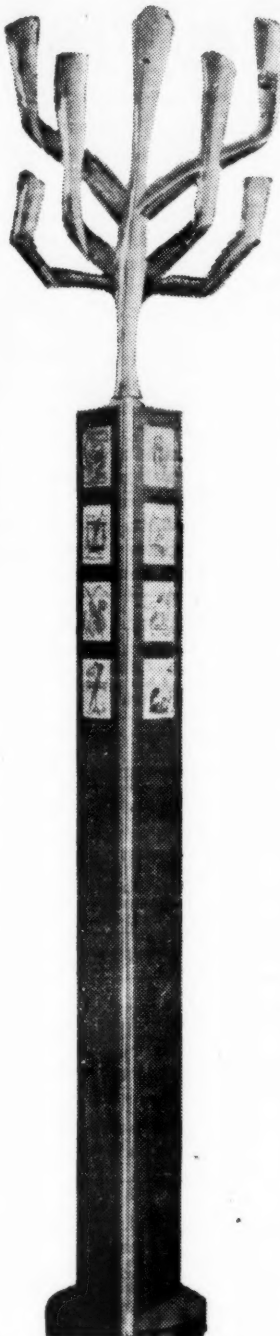
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Monday, Dec. 14, 8:30 p.m. Judaism and Christianity: The Church Fathers and the Fathers of the Synagogue, lecture by Dr. William G. Braude. Rabbi, Temple Beth El, Providence, R. I. Herzl Institute. Public invited.

Monday, Dec. 14, 8:30 p.m. 20th Century Judaism, lecture by Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel. Cong. B'nai Jeshurun, 270 W. 89th st. Public invited.

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Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:45 p.m. **Talmud for Beginners.** Classes conducted by Dr. Elizer Kirzner. Herzl Institute. Public invited.

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m. **Midweek Forum:** Status Seekers in the American Jewish community will be discussed by Dr. Marshall Sklare, director Division of Scientific Research. American Jewish Committee and Rabbi Theodore Friedman. Cong. Beth El of the Oranges of Maplewood. Herzl Institute. Public invited.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:45 p.m. **The Bible in the Light of Archaeology:** Isaac and Ishmael; The Law of the First Born. Classes conducted by Dr. David Neiman. Herzl Institute. Public invited.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 8:30 p.m. **Israel Kaleidoscope:** "It Happened in Israel Last Week" — A 'Living Magazine' featuring: Headline Roundup, Political Commentary, News Photos, Background Profiles, etc., Editor David E. Goldberg.

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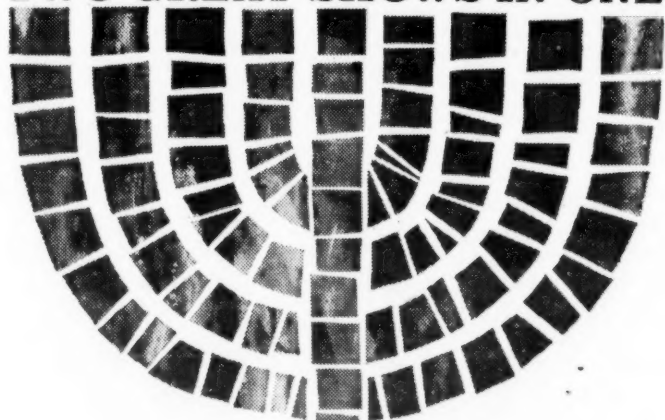
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Sounds Like Nazi Super-Race Doctrine In Reverse

Professor Says Heredity Breeds A More Intelligent Jew

By HYMAN CHESTER

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Waves of pride, criticism and embarrassment washed over the Milwaukee Jewish community in turn in the wake of a University of Wisconsin geneticist's statement that Jews, as a population group, probably have a proportionately greater frequency of genes which contribute to intelligence than non-Jews.

The statement was made by William H. Stone, an associate professor of the department of genetics, in a speech before the Milwaukee Jewish Forum at the Jewish Community Center. Stone is a Jew himself. Only 36 persons were present at the forum, sponsored by the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the center. Among them, however, was a daily newspaper reporter.

THE STATEMENT received full play in the newspaper. It became a topic of conversation throughout the city, attracted letters to the editor and resulted in a demand by the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle, Anglo-Jewish weekly, that Jews exercise a bit more self-censorship and avoid "running to the daily newspapers with their tales."

Prof. Stone made this remark after a detailed discussion of the roles played by heredity, environment, culture and natural selection in determining the genetic make-up of population groups. He emphasized, however, that he did not mean to say that Jews, or any population group, were "inherently superior."

HE POINTED, however, to the large percentage of Jews who have won Nobel prizes, and the relatively higher scholastic level of Jews in college. He added, "Genetic differences are definitely reflected in cultural achievements."

Prof. Stone said that in referring to a greater frequency of genes contributing toward intelligence, he meant the genes which shape an individual's "adeptness in the use of symbols."

Jews are genetically unique, he said, and expressed the opinion that variety of population is a good thing. He attributed the "distinctiveness" of Jews to their environment, cultural background, religious tradition, heredity and the forces of natural selection. Much of this, he said, has been influenced historically by persecution of the Jews and

marriage customs which dictate that Jew should marry Jew.

THE SAME genetic principles which operate to distinguish Jews, he said, also account for many of the special differences between other population groups.

After the report in the daily paper, some sneering letters were received but not printed. Two letters, however, examined the statement in a scholarly vein and were printed. In one, a writer agreed that Jews showed evidences of greater intelligence and he gave the credit for that to Judaism, which he described as "success oriented."

ANOTHER WRITER said that Stone disregarded scientific principles in making his statements. He added that Stone's ideas hinted at a "superior race" theory among he strongest fighters.

Edward Perlson, managing editor of the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle, took the situation as one basis for an editorial. He said that the report of the meeting would stir up inter-group bitterness. He reminded the community of a story on a disagreement between a minority group in a congregation and the rabbi, and of some other incidents which he said did not hold the community up in good light.

Insurance Companies Cool Toward Hiring Jews

NEW YORK (P.O.) — There is still a sizeable amount of discrimination against employment of Jews by life insurance companies.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith revealed that there has been some liberalization in employment of Jewish executives. But they are centered mainly in sales. There is still a "clear pattern of discrimination against Jews" in home office positions, the ADL reported.

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Even in the home offices, two-thirds are centered in jobs as actuaries, lawyers, accountants and the like.

Irving Ferman, executive vice-chairman of the President's Committee on Government Contracts, declared here that discrimination in employment is still a crucial problem for minority groups.

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Orthodox Rabbis Call Birth Control Immoral and Irreligious

By MORTON ZELENKO

NEW YORK (P-O) — A group of Orthodox rabbis sided with President Eisenhower's refusal to have the U. S. give birth control information and devices to foreign countries. They also condemned the practice of birth control among both Jews and non-Jews as "immoral and irreligious."

Conservative rabbis questioned by The POST and OPINION took issue with the Orthodox stand, while disagreeing among themselves. They agreed only that birth control was in accordance with Jewish law for

health reasons and the saving of life.

REFORM OPINION was cautious. When bold statements were made, they were clearly against the President's position and in favor of the practice of birth control by anyone who wishes to do so.

A spokesman for the Israeli Consulate here said that birth control information and contraceptive devices for both men and women were easily obtainable in that country. However, the subject has never been a public issue since Israel was not interested in population control.

THE SPOKESMAN also denied

that abortion had been permitted in the Army until two years ago. He said that abortion was practiced in Israeli hospitals when childbirth would endanger the life or health of the woman.

RABBI SAMUEL A. TURK, president of the Orthodox Rabbinical Alliance of America, applauded President Eisenhower's stand. He said birth control was irreligious except for reasons of health, and in any case only the woman is permitted to practice it under Jewish law. He was strongly opposed to the practice of birth control for economic reasons.

Rabbi Samuel Belkin, president

of Yeshiva University, said that birth control was a matter to be decided by the rabbi and the doctor of a woman. Men cannot practice birth control, according to Jewish law as handed down from Mt. Sinai. He refused comment on the U. S. distributing birth control assistance abroad because it had become purely a political issue.

Rabbi Joseph Hager, spiritual leader of the Wall Street Synagogue, thinks birth control is immoral and irreligious. He said his interpretation of Jewish law is that birth control cannot be practiced by either Jewish men or women. The U. S. should not give birth control information or devices to other countries, especially not to Israel which has its own rabbinate to decide the matter.

RABBIS WOLF KELMAN of the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly of America declared that it is not proper for the U. S. to supply birth control information or contraceptives to other countries. He said the practice of birth control among Jews is certainly not irreligious or immoral. The whole issue is officially under study by Conservative Jewry.

Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum, spiritual leader of the Jewish center of the Conservative Kew Gardens Hills and executive administrative vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America, said that hunger and misery due to overpopulation was the most important issue in the controversy. Therefore, the U. S. should not refuse to aid other countries in their efforts to control population. Jewish law permits the

practice of birth control for health reasons.

RABBI Maurice Eisendrath, president of the Reform Union of American Hebrew Congregations, through his office, cited a resolution passed at his organization's recent 45th Biennial Convention. This favored the distribution of birth control information through the Planned Parenthood Federation, doctors and hospitals. It approved of the giving of birth control information to anyone who wanted it.

Israel Could Pay Own Way By 1965

JERUSALEM (P-O) — Israel could pay its own way by 1965, Prof. Hollis B. Chenery, a Stanford economist said here.

He was sent here by the United Nations to help set-up a Five-Year Plan which it is hoped will guide Israel out of the economic woods.

Prof. Chenery feels that the Israel economy is similar to the stage at which Western European countries found themselves at the end of World War II. Under the Marshall Plan they were getting about 12 per cent of their national income from abroad, either in loans or unrequited grants.

Mendes-France Lauds Israel

JERUSALEM (P-O) — "The magnificent work done by Israel sets a fine example to the rest of the Western world," M. Pierre Mendes-France said here.

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Reform Jews Are Likeliest To Join Non-Sectarian Groups

NEWARK (P-O) — Reform Jews are most likely to join non-sectarian organizations primarily, Manheim S. Shapiro, director of the Jewish affairs department of the American Jewish Committee said here.

He cited a White Plains, N. Y., survey as his evidence for this contention. The survey showed that Conservative Jews join Jewish organizations primarily; and Orthodox Jews tend to join both.

HE SAID that Jews, who mix fairly easily with non-Jews in business, communal and philanthropic activities, tend to associate with other Jews socially almost exclusively.

Shapiro cited surveys which sought to determine what Jews thought of as "essential to Jewishness." The surveys indicated that lowest on the scale were daily and Sabbath service attendance and kashrut observance, the Newark Jewish News quoted him as saying.

MOST important were the High Holy Days, the Passover Seder and celebration of Hanuka, "once a minor festival which now outranks all others."

Shapiro said that an intense desire for Americanization led many Jews to give up religious

rituals and dietary practices. They equated these observance with "foreignness."

THE GREAT materialistic drive of the second generation, led to giving up going to services also.

With the resulting ignorance of Jewish thought and customs, congregations "deputized" their religious responsibilities and relationships with God to the rab-

bi, the Newark Jewish News reported Shapiro as saying. Jewish communities likewise "deputized" their communal responsibilities to professional social workers, Shapiro said.

However, a "growing maturity" is emerging from the American Jewish community, Shapiro said. And this trend is being reversed, he said.

THIS WEEK IN NEW YORK

Visitors to N. Y. have an excellent opportunity to mingle with United Nations diplomats, Israeli government officials and celebrities of the stage, at the opening session of the Conference for Progressive Judaism at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel. The affair starts tonight at 8 p.m.

The three-day conference of the Hashomer Hatzair Organization offers a most interesting program.

Subjects for the other sessions of the Conference will deal with "Paradox and Dilemma of World Jewry" under which the position of the Jews in America and the Soviet Union will be discussed;

"The New Government in Israel," "Towards the 25th World Zionist Congress," "The Impact of Kibbutz Education" and "The Social Philosophy of Theodor Herzl."

Prof. Abraham J. Heschel will discuss the Roots of Jewish Ethics at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun.

Dr. Heschel is professor of Jewish Ethics and Mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He is one of the rare minds in American Jewry. His many profound books include "God In Search of Man."

Day Schools Don't Create Self-Imposed Ghettos

DENVER (P-O) — Defending Jewish day schools against criticism that they create "clannishness" and "self-imposed ghettos," Denver Hillel Academy teacher, Elsie Adams, said the contrary was true.

She said that as her Jewish pupils acquire a pride in their Jewish heritage and a deep knowledge of Judaism, they have the security to meet their non-Jewish playmates naturally and spontaneously without defensive attitudes.

From their five non-Jewish teachers, they know what it is to be with Christians every day. And after school hours, those who live in mixed neighborhoods have the rest of the afternoon to

play with friends of all faiths, she said.

Rabbi Manfred Pick, principal of the Hillel Academy Day school Hebrew Department, said, "When children know what they stand for, and know their Judaism, they have no complexes."

Down Scope: Full Speed Ahead

LONDON (P-O)—Israel's first submarine, the Tanin, was officially handed over this week at a British naval base. The submarine is now on a 16-day journey to Israel.

The Tanin is one of two subs, Britain sold to Israel last year. The sub's all-Israeli crew is commander by Yosef Gror.

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JNF Body Suggests Yosef Weitz 'Retire' So Son Can Keep His Job

JERUSALEM (P-O) — Three months of quiet on the stormy Jewish National Fund front was broken when a committee of seven JNF board members decided Sharon Weitz should keep his job as head of the merged JNF-Government Afforestation Department.

The Israeli press bitterly attacked Yosef Weitz' appointment of his son, Sharon, to work directly under him. Almost the entire press regardless of political affiliations not only criticized this nepotism, but denounced the elder Weitz' alleged dictatorial powers with the JNF hierarchy.

THE ISRAELI press with its typical lack of restraint, vitriolically condemned the elder Weitz for not letting the highly-capable former government head of afforestation, Dr. Amihud Goor to apply for the post.

Yosef Weitz further alienated his critics by questioning the capabilities of the highly-respected Dr. Goor.

Even such highly placed Israeli leaders as Foreign Ministry Walter Eytan sprang to Dr. Goor's defense and blasted the manner of Sharon Weitz' appointment.

The seven-man committee appointed by the JNF, in a half-hearted attempt to appease those who still questioned the propriety of a father being the direct superior of his son in a government body, recommended that the elder Weitz give up some of his executive duties. The move was a slimly-covered maneuver to make it appear that the father was "retiring" to make room for his son.

THE COMMITTEE suggested that Yosef Weitz retire from his day-to-day duties in running the development department of the JNF, but should supervise these activities as head of a new committee of director, the Jerusalem Post reported.

In effect, this avoids a situation where a son would be directly working under his father's supervision.

ALTHOUGH Sharon Weitz will keep his job as head of the Afforestation Department, he will now be answerable to an Afforestation Authority.

Yosef Weitz told the Jewish Observer and Middle East Review that, "I did not appoint Sharon to anything. Sharon was appointed Chief Forestry Officer of the JNF in the north by Ussishkin. Since 1953, he has been heading all JNF forestry work."

THE ELDER Weitz contended that the entire question boiled down to whether or not to dismiss his son from the job he has been doing for many years.

He said his son's department planted 12 million trees in the past two years and received no complaints.

Jewish Observer called on the JNF to clear away some of the fog which surrounds its management policies. Now that the JNF has become responsible for all Israel land development it must retain the full confidence of the public, the weekly said.

Israeli Belles Are Stunning

TEL AVIV (P-O) — Israeli women are among the world's best looking, Mrs. Bice Cezanne, famed Italian fashion expert said here.

They have wonderful complexions and eyes, Mrs. Cezanne said, at the end of her visit here. "They were well-dressed but not completely in fashion," she said.

"I had expected to see the Israeli women dressed in sport blouses and slacks, but to my pleasant surprise, I saw well-dressed elegant women," she said.

A FRENCH journalist who visited Israel not so long ago to write about settlement in the Negev, opened his report this way:

"Together with the development of new settlement methods, a new nation and an extraordinary Army, a new type of women's beauty, which is wholly Israeli and which enchants the hearts of the male visitors—at the same time arousing the jealousy of women tourists—have evolved in Israel." And the man should know. He is a Frenchman.

Zippora Gon, correspondent for the Johannesburg "Jewish Herald" wrote that beauty experts agree that there is not a "typical Israeli beauty." Israeli girls are as varied as a rainbow. It will take another generation or two to apply one general definition to them, she wrote.

Tourists who sit on Saturday night in one of the Paris-like cafes on Tel Aviv's main drag, Dizengoff Street, marvel at the beauty of Israeli girls promenading by.

Israeli girls have a "different" quality that makes them all the more appealing.



Chandler Agrees

Hollywood star Jeff Chandler gives El Al stewardess, Nitzza Gordon a second look. He just got back from a visit to Israel.

Israeli women have not yet been completely sold on the psychology of beauty care that American and European women worry so much about.

TEEN-AGE girls in Israel simply do not wear lipstick. Use of lipstick and eyebrow care is unheard of until a girl reaches at least 18. Visits to the beauty parlor and use of cosmetics come much later—if at all.

Israeli girls appear younger, fresher and simpler than American or European women, Mrs. Gon says.

A number of cosmetic experts who have visited Israel, stated Israeli women do not know how to guard their beauty, she writes. The Israelis are over-bent on sun-tans even at the price of sunburn and wrinkles.

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I THINK AS I PLEASE

Community Center Uses Unique Methods to Promote Activities

By CARL ALPERT

WILKES BARRE, Pa. — The Jewish community center in this city is a large, modern building constructed on a principal avenue, and overlooks the swirling, muddy waters of the Susquehanna River across the street. Its gymnasium, library, meeting rooms and corridors were alive with young and old each time I entered the building during my several days here. I am told that some 85 per cent of Wilkes-Barre's 1,300 Jewish families are members of the center, and on some evenings it appeared that most of them were in one or another corner of the big building. The center does not serve as substitute for or competition of the synagogues of the town — seven in number — since practically every family in Wilkes-Barre is affiliated with one or more of the congregations.

WHAT interested me particularly were some of the novel devices developed here to promote the center and its activities. Some of them are ingenious and highly successful. For example: Every community agency which conducts educational classes is disturbed by the gradual decline in weekly attendance at such courses. One is supposed to make allowance for a "normal" drop-off after the first few weeks, but too frequently the initial large registration is so progressively whittled away, that by the final weeks only an embarrassingly small core of students has remained in faithful attendance. How to solve this problem? Require payment in advance for the whole course? Charge high fees for admission to each individual lecture, but offer a "bargain" rate to sign up for the whole series? None of these plans has proven truly effective.

WILKES BARRE has a completely new approach. The center makes a charge for each class that a student misses. Here is how it works. In principle, all classes and courses offered by the center are free to members. However, as indication of serious intention, each member who signs up, say for an art course or a study group in Jewish history, must deposit a registration

fee. The fee may vary but could run to about six dollars for a course of eight classes. Within 24 hours after completion of the last lecture in the series, the center office mails each student a refund check in the amount of his six dollars LESS 75 cents for each class he may have missed. In short, he pays only for his absences.

You can see why I call this plan ingenious. It works most effectively. For one thing, it prevents inflated registration for popular courses which may be limited in size. Serious intent is required, as evidenced by deposit. Further, on class night, the student must weigh the distracting engagement, or his own laziness against the forfeit of 75 cents for non-attendance. Wilkes-Barre Jews do not all have perfect will power, and the center authorities concede that there is a measurable income from such non-attendance, even though this is not the purpose. The important thing is that there is a relative constancy in attendance. The center must of course retain confidence by prompt refund of the registration deposits.

I DON'T know if this plan could be used elsewhere. Perhaps there are some centers which have to bribe their members to attend courses. At any rate, I commend the idea to the attention of others who may like to try it.

The man who thought up this device is Lou Smith, executive director of the Wilkes-Barre Jewish community center. Lou is a genial fellow who has earned the respect and love of Jew and

non-Jew alike in Wilkes-Barre. He brings to his position an unusual type of background, training and experience. Before becoming a center director, he was a practicing civil engineer and one of the area's best-known, all-around athletes and a star professional basketball player. These talents stand him in good stead as planner, organizer, administrator and co-ordinator.

I AM SURE Lou would be glad to provide further details on his experience with the "Absentee Payment" plan to anyone who may write to him.

That's not all. Ask him to explain how he is successfully building up a permanent center endowment fund by selling "memberships in perpetuity" in connection with Israel Bonds. The donor family gives the center \$2,500 (tax deductible) with

which the center buys an Israel Bond. Interest payments cover maintenance of an annual \$100 membership fee — and Israel is helped at the same time.

Lou has also worked out a successful system of assuring trained top leadership for the area's over-all fund-raising for domestic and overseas needs. It is done with a series of echelons and promotions in community responsibility. The head of the local "Federation" for as far as five years ahead is already in training for successive promotions. And when a young man is chosen by the community to fill a specific low post, he can realize with a thrill that he has been put on the ladder. If he justifies this early confidence in him, he knows that he is slated, through successive and well known stages

over a five year period — for the chairmanship of the drive.



Alpert

Edgar Stern Dies

NEW ORLEANS (P-O) — Edgar Bloom Stern, former head of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange died. He was 73. He had been active in business, civic, governmental and philanthropic affairs in Louisiana for fifty years.

Levin's Film Stars Juliette Greco

NEW YORK (P-O) — Meyer Levin's screenplay "The Ballad of Red Rock" which Darryl F. Zanuck will produce French star Juliette Greco. The picture will be about Israel and will be filmed there in 1960.

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Miscellaneous

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WHAT FOODS THESE MORSELS BE

Sarah Appeals For Time to Answer Reader's Requests

By SARAH LIEBER

Thanks to all my readers who sent letters and cards in recent weeks. I wish I had time to answer each of you individually, but I simply can't. I am happy, however, to fill your recipe requests through this column. Please allow several weeks time for your answer to appear. And, of course, all of us, readers and writer alike are more than grateful for your own favorite recipe contributions. Below are some of each.



Sarah

I'm sure you will find them useful.

VARENIKIS

(Requested by Mrs. M. Goldstein of Akron, Ohio)

Dough:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted before measuring
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tbsps. water, about

Sift the flour onto a board. Make a well in the center and drop in unbeaten egg yolk and water. Stir to blend and form a ball of dough. More or less water may be required depending on the humidity of the day, and upon the absorbing qualities of the flour. Knead well for five minutes. Roll out to a very thin "leaf" on a lightly floured board. Cut into squares or rounds. Fill with desired filling. Bring edges of the dough together and seal by pressing with the tines of a fork. Drop into boiling salted water, a few at a time. When done the varnikis should rise to the surface. Serve hot with butter, sour cream, fruit sauce or gravy, depending on the type of filling. Or use as soup accompaniment.

the surface. Serve hot with butter, sour cream, fruit sauce or gravy, depending on the type of filling. Or use as soup accompaniment.

Fillings:

Cottage Cheese filling:

- 1 cup dry cottage or pot cheese
- 1 egg
- salt and pepper to taste

Blend thoroughly, and place by rounded spoons on the center of each section of dough.

Fresh fruit filling:

- 2 lbs. plums, cherries, or berries
- sugar to cover
- cracker or cake crumbs

Wash, hull or peel fruit. Sprinkle with sugar. Let stand for one hour. Drain juice and boil to thicken. Pour over fruit, add enough cracker or cake crumbs to thicken. Place by spoonfuls on center of dough sections. Proceed as above.

Canned or frozen fruit:

Drain syrup from fruit or berries. Cook with two tablespoonfuls of cornstarch per cupful as above. Canned Tart red cherries, apricots, or pineapple are excellent for this.

Meat filling:

- 1 cup chopped leftover cooked meat

1 egg
1 tbsps. minced onion
Blend all ingredients together. Taste and add seasonings as required. Fill dough sections as above. Note: raw chopped beef may be used, but should be browned in a little fat before cooling and using as filling. Proceed as you would with cooked meat, after browning.

KNISHES

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted before measuring
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 tbsps. water
- 1 tbsps. cooking oil or melted shortening
- 2 eggs, well beaten

Sift dry ingredients together into a deep bowl. Make a well in the center and add eggs, oil and water. Stir flour toward center and mix thoroughly. Blend until a smooth dough is formed. Knead lightly if necessary. Roll out on lightly floured board to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut into rounds or squares. Fill with desired filling. Moisten edges of dough and seal by pressing edges together. Place on a greased pan and bake at 350 degrees until browned. Time depends on size of knishes. For cocktail or hors d'oeuvre size knishes, roll out into rectangle, spread with filling, roll up as for jelly roll. Cut into inch-length slices. Place on baking pan, and bake as above.

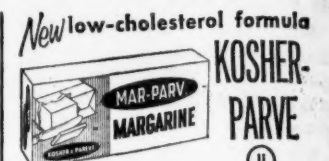
Fillings:

Chicken filling:
2 cups chopped cooked chicken
1/2 cup bread crumbs or matzo meal
1 cup chicken gravy or broth
seasoning to taste

Combine all ingredients. Let stand a few minutes until liquid is absorbed. Fill knishes. Proceed as directed.

Liver filling:

- 1 lb. cooked chicken or beef liver
- 1 onion, minced



- 1 tbsps. schmaltz or shortening
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup cooked kasha or cooked rice
- salt and pepper to taste

Brown the minced onion in the melted fat. Add to meat and run through food chopper using finest blade. Add remaining ingredients, taste and add whatever seasonings are desired. Cool before filling knishes.

Potato filling:

- 2 cups mashed potatoes
- 1 tbsps. minced onion
- 1 tbsps. schmaltz or shortening
- 1 egg
- flour as needed

Brown the minced onion in the fat and add to potatoes. Beat in egg. Add enough flour to make the dough manageable. Use 3/4 spoonfuls as filling for knish dough. Proceed as above.

A Word To The Wives:

Now is the time to stock up on Hanuka decorations, party napkins, and plenty of games for the youngsters. Isterhood shops should have a goodly stock by now. If not, consult the chairman.

In large cities department stores are becoming aware of the Jewish customer's desires for holiday materials.

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WOMEN'S VIEWPOINT

This Year's Toys Tantalize
Both Mama and Little Daughter

By HELEN COHEN

What does mama yearn for? Simple. Just look in the toy department this gift-buying season and see what is being offered to young sis.

Not that I have time to go looking through toy departments. But we've been receiving the usual toy and gift books put out by the various department stores and hobby shops.

For instance, packaged in a gift book for \$2.98 we find a satin-lined plush stole for Miss six year old to drape around her shoulders, along with a 10 caret ring, a make-believe orchid and pop-head pearls. Papas of young girls who consider buying this outfit better watch out lest mama feels discriminated against.

NEXT WE notice the latest in play houses — the tiny metal ones with their tiny plastic furnishings. This one comes complete with its own real swimming pool. Just because you have to forego that addition to your backyard doesn't mean you should deprive your young lady of having her house fully equipped.

And finally, there can be little doubt that mama's thoughts are excessively pre-occupied with a dream kitchen featuring all the latest and smartest-looking of labor-saving appliances. Daughter can own a replica of every item needed to operate efficiently as she busies herself at playing house; and the toy stoves and washing machines and so on are getting so big that they are practically life size. In fact, one might wonder where they will all be kept.

LOOKS LIKE the house of tomorrow will have to feature two kitchens, one for mama and one for Miss five year old. I have a

simpler solution to this problem, though by now I'm convinced that no one cares to listen. Let the young lady get an early start helping mama with the real thing.

There was one gift suggestion about which I can't make up my mind. Should I be shocked or should I feel it is about time such a toy was put on the market? It's a doll, named Marybel, who comes complete with crutches, dark glasses, casts and disease spots, and is described as "the doll who gets well," perfect for the little girl who's sick or hurt or who plays that her doll is.

Little girls do sometimes pretend certain sicknesses or misfortunes have overtaken their play-toys, but always before, at least, the doll came to them in a healthy condition. (I would say almost too hale and hearty. I always resented the excessively healthy coloring on the dolls, the rosy cheeks and red lips and creamy skin, which I, in moments of the most robust health, could never hope to match.)

U. S. OILMAN GIVES PLAN

TEL AVIV (P-O) — American oilman, Virgil Stark, draw up a plan for the exploitation of the new Zohar gas field near the Dead Sea.

Their Children
And Mine

By DONA Z. MEILACH

Their daughter is fat; mine is zotfec.

Their boy skipped a grade in school because there is no competition; my boy skipped because he is exceptionally bright.

Their boy gave a fine bar mitzva speech; my boy spoke from the heart.

Their child is a brat; mine is going through a difficult period.

Their child needs more discipline; mine is aggressive.

Their daughter runs around too much; my daughter is popular.

Their teen-age boy needs a car like a lurchingcup; my teen-ager needs a car because he has a job after school and can't make connections to be there on time.

They're making a bar mitzva like a wedding; I have to make a bar mitzva because I have so many relatives and business acquaintances.

They're sending their child to camp to get rid of him for the summer; I'm sending my child to learn how to swim and get along away from home.

They bought a Cadillac to keep up with the neighbors; I bought

a Cadillac because it's a heavy car and I need it in my business. Their child bumbles on the piano; mine has unusual musical talent.

They're going to Europe because everybody's going to Europe; my wife needs a warm climate for her health, so we're going to the Riviera.

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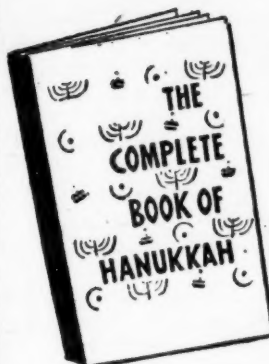
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BEYOND CRITICISM?

The POST and OPINION feels that it has earned the right to criticize the American rabbinate, since it has been among its staunchest supporters. What bothers us about Rabbi Saul Teplitz's letter (P-O, Dec. 4) is that if you follow his reasoning to its conclusion, you put the rabbinate in a place where it is beyond criticism.

OUR EDITOR'S CHAIR on the problem of finding an occupant for the difficult circuit-riding rabbi pulpit (P-O, Nov. 20) was not a discussion of the strengths and the weaknesses of the American rabbinate as such. Although we made severe remarks against the American rabbinate, these were not out of context.

We've read and heard many discussions of the rabbi of today. Among the rabbis' most severe critics are the rabbis themselves, and nothing that we wrote has not been said and written before.

Anyone who takes the position that the American rabbi of today is without fault, and not a victim like the rest of us of the market-place mentality by which we are surrounded, is only fooling himself.

NOTHING WILL harm the American rabbinate more than a cloture on valid criticism.

Distinguished rabbis who make Jewish history can't come to every generation, nor does the time seem ripe for the appearance of rabbis who seek to serve in the great empty spaces in the U. S. Jewish community—our small towns. Whether congregations will be established in the near future to minister to Jewish wage earners, no one knows. And if the emphasis on bigness, and the cathedral-like setup is to be overcome, more idealism is necessary.

Some or many tendencies in the American rabbinate need to be reasoned out by those who are concerned.

Who will say that the press does not have a role to play here?

SAVE THE CONFERENCE!

The indications are that the Presidents Conference is breaking up.

This is unfortunate.

It is the only instrument for common discussion and action in the U. S. Jewish community.

IT IS BREAKING up because of party rivalry and vested interests.

This is the surface manifestation.

The substantial reason for what seems to be the failure of the Conference is its lack of authority, which means that although it was an ad hoc committee, it sought to act as a representative body, which it could not be because it had no mandate to act for anyone.

THOSE WHO CONTEND that the group was weighted on the side of the Zionists and dominated by Nahum Goldmann are picking faults, not attacking the basic problem.

If the Presidents Conference breaks up and is not replaced, then the U. S. Jewish community will be the loser.

We urge therefore that the Presidents Conference be continued as it is, and that those who seek to change it or replace it, desist. They are not using common sense.

THE ANALYSIS which says that the U. S. Jewish community can be made into a unified body through any kind of arrangement between our national Jewish organizations is invalid.

The U. S. Jewish community will be brought into effective unity when our local Jewish communities come to the inescapable conclusion that such unity is desirable and necessary. The national Jewish organizations, even the largest of them, speak in the name of only their relatively small constituencies, even though they may seek to give the impression otherwise.

EVEN SO, THEY will continue to retain this kind of an unsupported domination until the very day that the local Jewish communities decide that it is time for them to end the contradiction and confusion.

Until that time—another ten or twenty years—the national Jewish organizations need to consult with one another and to act in concert whenever their views coincide. In this small area, the Presidents Conference has already shown its usefulness.

THOSE WHO CHALLENGE the Presidents Conference because it was the brainchild of Nahum Goldmann, one of the few creative Jewish leaders, are trying to build their own ego by knocking the big man.

No new organization, no reconstitution of the American Jewish Conference can hope to succeed. At this juncture in American Jewish history there is no demand for the development of a unifying agency. Without this demand from the people or as the result of the urgency of events, any such efforts are bound to fail.

HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

Holidays begin sundown of precious day.

5720 — 1959-60

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Hanuka |Dec. 26-Jan. 2 |
| Purim |Mar. 13 |
| Passover |Apr. 12-19 |
| Lag B'Omer |May 15 |
| Shavuot |June 1 |
| Yizkor |June 2 |
| Tisha B'Av |Aug. 2 |
| Selichot |Sept. 18 |

5721 — 1960-61

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Rosh Hashana |Sept. 22-23 |
| Yom Kippur |Sept. 30 |

The EDITOR'S CHAIR...

IN THE NOV. 6 issue of The POST and OPINION appeared an advertisement from Calvert Whiskey, which is one of a series built around the theme of "Jews Who Have Helped Build America." The Jew picked by Calvert for this kind of laudation was David Levy Yulee, whom the advertisement said was "the first Jew to serve in the U. S. Senate."

The advertisement drew a bitter response from Nathan Kaplan of Park Forest, Ill., who wrote to The POST and OPINION that "Yulee disdained his Jewishness, estranging himself from his father and his faith. He quietly fostered the myth that he was not really a Jew, but a scion of a royal Moroccan family, a canard which fooled only himself."

WE SENT THE letter over to Rabbi Jacob Marcus, of Hebrew Union College, a foremost Jewish historian, who had this to say:

"Nathan Kaplan is substantially correct in all details. It is just as he said and his

statements with very minor modifications can be documented."

Rabbi Marcus added that an article on Yulee in the Dictionary of American Biography states that the Senator was a member of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, and was buried from that church. He married a Christian and raised his children as Christians.

NOW THE ERROR no doubt crept in through the advertising agency, for Calvert whiskey is a part of the Seagram empire, which is headed by Sam Bronfman, western hemisphere chairman of the World Jewish Congress, and president of the Canadian Jewish Congress for the past ten or fifteen years.

This problem is not an easy one, and if advertising agencies are duped, so are Anglo-Jewish newspapers, who are often caught in this kind of an error.

When Max Baer died last week the Jewish Chronicle of London carried a long write-up about the great Jewish fighter.

Baer had as much Jewish blood as Jack Dempsey—no more no less. Both had Jewish grandfathers on their father's side. Baer was a professing Christian, and married a Catholic, rearing his children as Catholics.

HE ALWAYS WORE a Mogen David on his boxing trunks, which was a device to lure the Jewish fight fans, who for years considered Maxie Baer as one of their own.

Your Name

By N. PEARLROTH

Want to know what your name means? Address your questions to Mr Pearlroth, National Jewish POST and OPINION, Box 1633, Indianapolis 6, Indiana.

DEAR MR. PEARLROTH: I would appreciate very much if you would tell me the meaning of the name Maybruch. My father came from Poland, and the name was spelled Majbruch. Thank you. MILTON MAYBRUCH, Far Rockaway, N. Y.



Pearlroth

MAYBRUCH is a garbled version of Maibuch—more correctly Maibuche—a German word referring to the Red Beech tree. This tree is very common in Central Europe and its wood is used for a variety of purposes. Tool handles are made of it, dams, watermills and sluices. Your ancestors may have chosen this name because of the presence of such a tree on their land or what is even more likely because they were engaged in the making of wooden shoes for which the red beechwood is the favorite raw material. The insertion of an unnecessary "r" occurred because the descendants no longer understood the meaning of the original term.

DEAR MR. PEARLROTH: My parents came from Hungary, from the villages of Vajan and Deregyo. I would appreciate any information on the origin of my father's name: Laszlo. Thank you.—SYLVIA YASZLO, Forest Hills, N. Y.

LASZLO is a family name of geographical origin. There are six localities named Szent Laszlo in the vicinity of your family's town of origin. Besides there is also Laszlo, Felso Leszlo and other localities from any of which your family name may be derived. All these geographical names are taken from the name of a saintly Hungarian king who ruled in the 11th century. Laszlo is the same name as Ladislav or the English Leslie.

BOOKS

Judaism Has Enjoyed World-Wide Influence

JEWISH HORIZONS, by Solomon Rappoport, \$4.50 (B'nai B'rith, Johannesburg; Bloch). From South Africa comes this outstanding collection of essays and vignettes in English and Hebrew. A rabbi of the high scholarship and piety that regularly emanate from that British commonwealth, Dr. Rappoport displays a vast and extensive knowledge of Jewish history, biography, the



Bursteln

ology, and literature. His major

aim seems to be to indicate the effect of Jewish teachings and practice on other faiths, lands, and personalities.

Among the persons he portrays are Rambam, Zunz, Ginzberg, and three Christians—Danby, Herford, and Schweiter; also Landau, Cremieux, Heine, Fleg, and Josephus. The Hebrew section includes essays on Goethe, Schiller, and Mickiewicz in Hebrew literature, and such esoterics as Buber, Plato, and Homer. The layman will find the work most readable and informative; the preacher and lecturer will find it a treasure.

VOICES FROM THE PAST, by Azriel Eisenberg, \$2.75 (Abelard-Schuman).

The most fascinating of all Eisenberg juveniles is his chapters on great biblical discoveries, illustrated by Matulay. The seventeen accounts here related could impel any young reader to borrow a spade and become an archaeologist himself. The personalities and adventures of the discoverers prove as interesting as the findings themselves—whether at Elephantine, Boab, the Dead Sea, or any other of the grounds and genizot uncovered. Unreservedly approved.

ABRAHAM BURSTEIN

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FRIDAY, DEC. 11, 1959

Soviet Jews Resent U.S. Groups Approach to 'Imagined Problems'

• Editor Jewish POST and OPINION

Immediately after the announcement of Premier Khrushchev's visit to the United States, 21 national Jewish organizations joined forces for the purpose of arranging a conference with him. The American Jewish Committee was a co-operating member of the ad hoc Committee, but in the final days of negotiations, announced its withdrawal. Dr. Joachim Prinz then delivered a stinging rebuke to the American Jewish Committee, for the secretive manner in which it had arbitrarily designated itself as the negotiator for American Jewry. In meeting with Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan some time earlier, Mr. Philip Klutznick, honorary president of B'nai B'rith

said that the committee had "no monopoly of interest" in the plight of Iron Curtain Jews.

IT IS apparent that of all the organizations, the American Jewish Committee alone proved itself capable of procuring an appointment with Mr. Mikoyan, and of effectively negotiating with him on the subject of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. The fact remains that since this meeting, books and pamphlets of Mendele Mochar Sforim, Peretz and others have appeared by the thousand.

It is time that the Jewish community of this country recognizes that the Jews of the Soviet Union have a prior right to be heard and consulted as to the actuality of their problems and methods

for solving them. One year ago, I met with a group of Soviet Jewish writers in the city of Kiev and with other Jewish groups and individuals in Moscow and Leningrad.

ONE REACTION was expressed in all these discussions. They all strongly protested the methods and tactics of the organized American Jewish community in its approach to what were their imagined problems. There was universal bitterness in their belief that those who spoke for them had no real concern for their welfare, but were merely using them as pawns for their own political purposes during the cold war period.

HERMAN BUSH
Chicago

'WITHOUT JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD JUDAISM BECOMES NEO-ORTHODOX PROTESTANTISM'

• Editor Jewish POST and OPINION

Will you please enter into the next issue of The POST and OPINION a correction of your statement in the Nov. 27 issue, where you wrote the following:

"Kaplan sharply reprimanded the United Synagogue for his 'expansionist policy' which he said is leading to a 'Christless neo-orthodox Protestantism.'"

The following is what I actually said:

"Without Jewish peoplehood Judaism tends to become a

Christless neo-Orthodox Protestantism. Its religion is distorted into a so-called dialogue between the individual Jew and God. Already we detect in all the three synagogue versions of Judaism the religious vocabulary and

idiom of neo-Orthodox or existentialist Protestantism, which is a theological anticipation of the beatnik perspective on life."

MORDECAI M. KAPLAN
Founder of Reconstructionism,
New York

Information Group Doesn't Try to Convert Non-Jews

• Editor Jewish POST and OPINION

If Mr. Maurice Samuel thinks it is silly to try to convert non-Jews, that is his privilege, although we ought to point out to him that the Jewish Information Society is not engaged in "trying to convert" but is merely offering information where such information is welcome and lacking.

Maurice Samuel (P-O, Nov. 7) said that the non-Jews are dropping the conversion of Jewry from their theology. He could not be more mistaken. It is true that one very liberal theologian made such a proposition in the last year or so. He was promptly challenged by every segment of

Protestantism. The Catholics ignored him.

If Mr. Samuel will browse through some American church magazines, he will find that powerful voices are calling for a vast new campaign to convert the Jews. They intend using the latest Madison Avenue techniques with plenty of money. I think this is happening, partly, because Christian leaders are just becoming aware of the mad flight of Jews from Orthodoxy in the past few decades. They think that this opens the door or possible conversion.

JAMES H. BURKEY, D.D.
Ironsides, Ore.

Rabbi Affirms Helen Cohen's Views On Jewish Soberness Through Ages

• Editor Jewish POST and OPINION

Helen Cohen's argument (P-O, Nov. 13) that when the Jew, through the centuries, wanted to escape from the troubles of life, he went to the Beth Hamidrash and not to the barroom, seems to me to be much more plausible than Dr. Alfred Neumann's explanation that "one of the reasons Jews did not drink excessively was that over the centuries they had learned in order to survive they had to be "on the ball" and in top physical condition."

It may be of interest to note that the author of the piyyut recited in some Orthodox synagogues on Simchat Tora immediately before "Nishmath Koi Chal," presaged this discussion

in his poem in praise of the students of the Tora who show their masculine spirit not by imbibing alcohol but by their fervent love and study of the Tora.

RABBI MORRIS TELLER, D.D.
Chicago

Rabbis Do Make Many Sacrifices

• Editor Jewish POST and OPINION

Once again your Editor's Chair of Nov. 20, moves me to pen these words in rebuttal. In discussing the difficulty of filling the circuit-riding pulpit, you flagrantly attack the American rabbinate by stating, "The idea of service to the Jewish community is not one which you could say distinguishes the American rabbinate, especially where some sacrifice is required."

I feel that the slur to American rabbis implicit in the above words, is acrimonious, vellicative, and definitely unwarranted.

On the contrary, there are many areas in which American rabbis distinguishably serve, and with great self sacrifice of which you are well aware. Time and space precludes me from citing all the areas, but I shall cite some:

1. The rabbis who served and those who are presently serving as chaplains in the U. S. Armed Forces.

2. The many young rabbis who have assumed new pulpits in the grass roots stage (some in far flung rural areas) and who have given untiringly of their time, effort, and energy for a few months without remuneration and are presently serving at moderate salaries.

3. The position of the American rabbi per se, which necessitates his being on 24-hour congregational call, and his participation in the religious, civic, and cultural community activities, bespeaks the magnanimity of his service and self sacrifice.

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Mixed Seating Does Not Deter Young People From Synagogue

• Editor Jewish POST and OPINION

I read with interest the statements of Bernard Abrams (P-O Nov. 13), newly elected National Commander of the JWV. After all, a man in high office becomes an authority on many things. And if he has an "Orthodox upbringing" he can speak on the spirit of Orthodoxy's datedness or rigidity.

Much that he says about inviting youth, using a uniform siddur and expounding of prayers has great validity. Indeed, many Orthodox synagogues have these policies without awaiting Mr. Abrams' advice.

But when he expounds law saying, "The reason for the separation (of men and women at services) is no longer valid and families should sit together as this will increase their interest in synagogue life," I have reason to ask several questions. Just what reason is no longer valid? Does Mr. Abrams know the reason? If he does, he would easily recognize that it is now more than ever valid.

Mr. Abrams would also do

well to realize that seating has little to do with interest in synagogue life. Background, knowledge, acceptance of Jewish law are the bases for synagogue interest. And what about the fact that a man having his wife at one side, may well have a well dressed, perfumed beauty on the other? Then what chance has either G-d or his wife?

It would interest Mr. Abrams to know that in Beverly Hills, perhaps the wealthiest and hence supposedly a less Orthodox community (wealth and piety are distantly related, we are told), Beth Jacob Congregation thrives, though seating at worship is segregated. The congregation boasts of a leadership under 45 years of age of prospering business and professional people.

When this year separate seating was instituted on the High Holy Days, almost 60 families left — virtually all over 50 and born in Europe. Sixty-three new families joined, knowing of the separation — virtually all under 50 and Americans in professions and business. The average age of the membership dropped by five years.

Now in Beverly Hills, where five years ago a "yarmuyke" wasn't seen, an Orthodox school, a Day school of 250 children, an adult institute are flourishing — with separation of seats at religious services, which are all well attended, and with a goodly percentage of young people.

The solution to the problems of Jewish life will have to be found elsewhere than where we sit.

RABBI SIMON A. DOLGIN
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Worms In Germany, Is Not French

• Editor Jewish POST and OPINION

In his "Digest of the Yiddish Press" (P-O, Nov. 27) Rabbi Samuel Silver asks your readers if they would vote for the restoration of the Rashi Shul in Worms, France.

I, for one, would vote for Jewish newspaper editors and rabbis who have sufficient knowledge of Jewish history and European geography to know that the city of Worms is situated in Germany, and not in France (this, incidentally, is the basis of the whole argument).

HERBERT WAGNER
Brooklyn

Beersheba Will Be Bigger Than Tel Aviv: B-G

BEERSHEBA (P-O) — Beersheba will one day be a larger city than Tel Aviv and Elath will be one of the world's great ports, Premier Ben-Gurion said here.

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